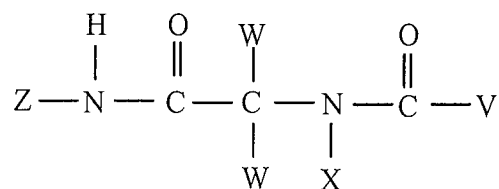


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

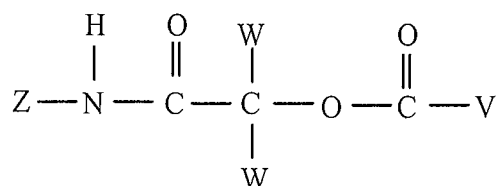
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



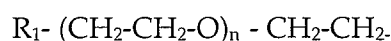
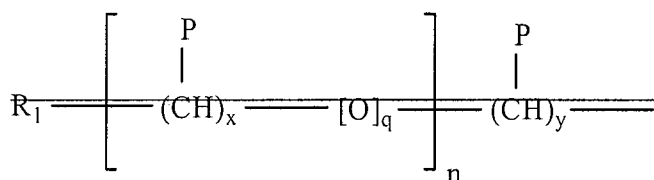
formula (Ia)



formula (Ib)

in which

the residues V, W, X and Z are in each case, independently of each other, a hydrocarbon residue which can contain heteroatoms and/or V, W and/or X is/are hydrogen, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the residues V, W, X and/or Z carries a binding group Y and in that the residues V, W, X and Z together exhibit at least one group of the formula (IIa)



formula (IIa)

in which

~~P is, on each occasion independently, H, OH, O-R₂~~

~~or CO-R₃,~~

~~R₁ is H or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 50 carbon atoms and which can contain heteroatoms, and~~

~~R₂ is, on each occasion independently, a hydrocarbon residue having from 1 to 6 C atoms,~~

~~R₃ is OH or NR₄R₅,~~

~~R₄ and R₅ are, in each case independently, H or a hydrocarbon residue which can contain heteroatoms,~~

~~where R₄ and R₅ can also together form a ring system,~~

~~n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000, and~~

~~x is, on each occasion, an integer of from 1 to~~

~~10, and~~

~~y is an integer of from 0 to 50, and~~

~~q is, on each occasion, 1.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A The compound as claimed in of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the binding group Y is selected from groups which are able to bind to an amino group,

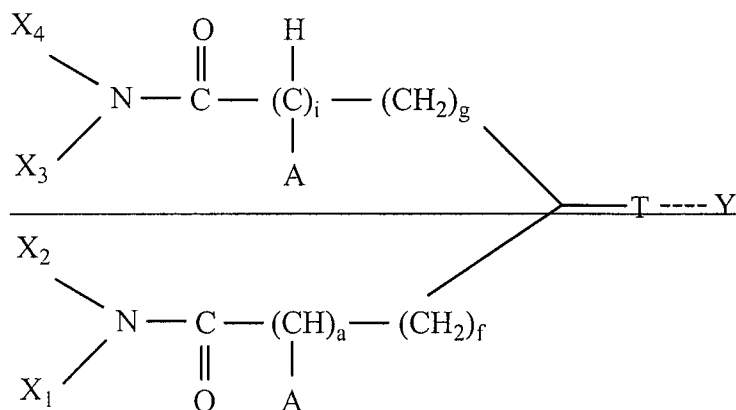
a thiol group, a carboxyl group, a guanidine group, a carbonyl group, a hydroxyl group, a heterocycle, a C-nucleophilic group, a C-electrophilic group, a phosphate or a sulfate, or are able to form a chelate or a complex with metals or are able to bond to silicon-containing surfaces.

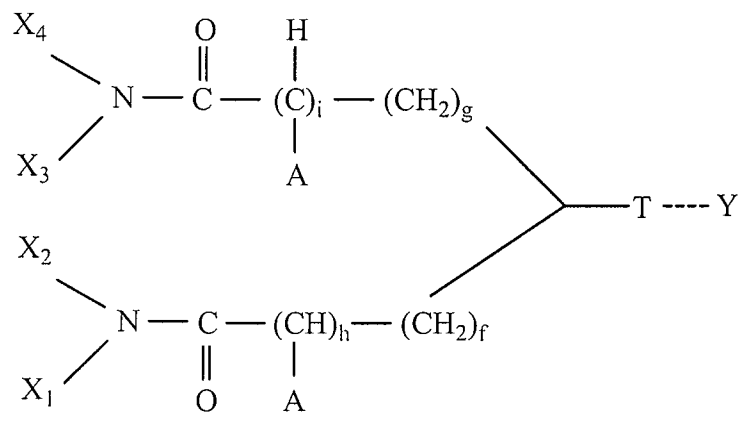
3. (Currently Amended) ~~A The compound as claimed in~~ of claims 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it contains at least three groups of the formula (IIa).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A The compound as claimed in~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the residues X and/or Z is branched and contains at least two groups of the formula (IIa).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A The compound as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein at least one of the residues X and/or Z additionally possesses a targeting group.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound having the formula (XIV)





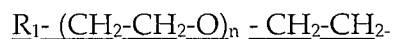
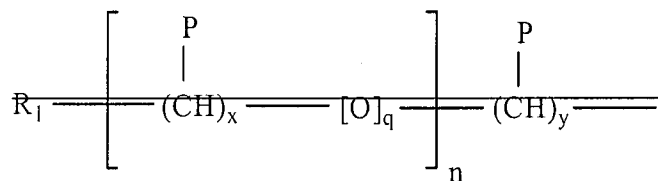
in which

h and i are, on each occasion independently, 0 or 1,

g and f are, on each occasion independently, an integer between 0 and 10, preferably between 0 and 5,

A is, on each occasion, H or $-(\text{CO})-\text{NX}_2$, and

X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 , and also X, have, in each case independently of each other, the meanings given above for X, where the compound exhibits at least two groups of the formula (IIa)



formula (IIa)

in which

~~P is, on each occasion independently, H, OH, O-R₂ or CO-R₃,~~

R₁ is H or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 50 carbon atoms and which can contain 5 heteroatoms, and

~~R₂ is, on each occasion independently, a hydrocarbon residue having from 1 to 6 C atoms,~~

~~R₃ is OH or NR₄R₅,~~

~~R₄ and R₅ are, in each case independently, H or a hydrocarbon residue which can contain heteroatoms, where R₄ and R₅ can also together form a ring system,~~

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000 ~~and~~

~~x is, on each occasion, an integer of from 1 to 10, and~~

y is an integer of from 0 to 50, and

~~q is, on each occasion, 1.~~

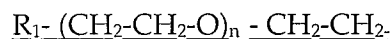
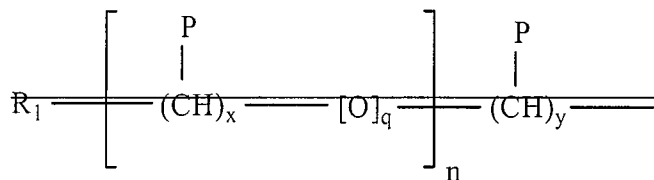
7. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compounds of the formulae



and



are reacted with each other, as starting compounds, in a multicomponent reaction, where V', W', X' and Z' are, in each case independently of each other, a hydrocarbon residue which can optionally contain heteroatoms and/or V', W' and/or X' are hydrogen, where at least one of the residues V', W', X' and Z' carries a binding group Y and where the residues V', W', X' and Z' together possess at least two groups of the formula (IIa)



formula (IIa)

in which

~~P is, on each occasion independently, H, OH, O-R₂ or CO-R₃,~~

R₁ is H or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 50 carbon atoms and which can contain heteroatoms, and

~~R₂ is, on each occasion independently, a hydrocarbon residue having from 1 to 6 C atoms,~~

~~R₃ is OH or NR₄R₅,~~

~~R₄ and R₅ are, in each case independently, H or a hydrocarbon residue which can contain heteroatoms, where R₄ and R₅ can together also form a ring system,~~

~~n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000, and~~

~~x is, on each occasion, an integer of from 1 to 10, and~~

~~y is an integer of from 0 to 50, and~~

~~q is, on each occasion, 1.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least one of the residues V', W', X' and/or Z' contains at least one further functionality selected from the group consisting of NH₂, C=O, NC and/or COOH.

9. (Previously Presented) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to a biopharmaceutical, pharmaceutical and/or synthetic active compound.

10. (Previously Presented) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to a surface and/or a biocatalyst.

11. (Previously Presented) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to an enzyme.

12. (Previously Presented) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to medicinal products or adjuvants for administering active compounds.

13. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1.

14. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1.

15. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical for treating cancer or coronary diseases, metabolic diseases, ~~neuronal or cerebral diseases, e.g. Alzheimer's or Parkinson's, or inflammatory processes, e.g. infections, and immune or autoimmune diseases, in particular rheumatoid arthritis,~~ comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a substance library, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least two different compounds as claimed in claim 1 are prepared using the method as claimed in claim 7 or 8.

17. (Previously Presented) A substance library which comprises at least two different compounds of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1.

18. (Currently Amended) A kit which comprises:

- (a) at least one compound as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1, ~~to 6~~ 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;
and also
- (b) buffer solutions and, where appropriate, ;
- (c) standard proteins and/or means for purifying conjugates which have been formed together
with the compound from (a).

19. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

20. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.